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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for validating credentials comprising:

inputting, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

determining, at the first system that a client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system;

retrieving, at the first system, information from a session token held by the client, the information being retrieved from the client, the information corresponding to a session credential for the second system, the second system (1) grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system, and (2) includes a protected resource on the second system that is accessible by the client; the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system;

the first system presenting at least some of the information from the session token to the second system;

the first system inputting a determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system; and

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the first system effecting successful authentication to the client so as to grant
granting access, to the protected resource on the first system, to the client based on the
determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the
second system.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising
granting a session credential to the client by the first system, after determining that the client
has a valid session credential granted by the second system.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising
sending a session token to the client, the token corresponding to a session credential granted by
the first system.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising
directing the client to the second system to establish a session credential based on successful
authentication at the second system, after determining that the client does not have a valid
session credential granted by the second system.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising
directing the client to the first system to establish a session credential based on successful
authentication at the first system, after determining that the client does not have a valid session
credential granted by the second system.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising
maintaining the client session credential granted by the second system.

7. (Canceled)

8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein retrieving information

from the session token held by the client comprises:

sending a query to the client from the first system, the query including identification as originating from a domain name corresponding to the second system; and receiving a response to the query.

9. (currently amended) A method for validating session credentials of a client comprising:

inputting, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

determining, at the first system that a client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system;

retrieving, at the first system, information from a session token held by the client, the information being retrieved from the client, the information corresponding to a session credential for the second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system, and the second system including a protected resource that is accessible by the client, the retrieving information from the session token held by the client comprises receiving a session token from the client corresponding to the second system, and the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system;

presenting at least some of the information from the session token to the second system;

determining whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system, the determining whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system is at least partially from presenting information from the session token;

the first system inputting a determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system;

granting a session credential to the client on the first system, after determining that the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system;

sending a session token to the client, the session token corresponding to the session credential granted by the first system, the session token allowing the client access to protected resources on the first system, so as to provide successful authentication to the client;
and

maintaining the client session credential..

10. (currently amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer-readable medium and transmitted as an information signal, the code for validating credentials, the code comprising:

code to input, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

code to determine, at the first system, that a client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system;

code to retrieve, at the first system, information from a session token held by the

client, the information corresponding to a session credential for the second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system, the second system including a protected resource that is accessible by the client, and the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system;

code to present at least some of the information from the session token to the second system; and

code to input, from the second system to the first system, a determination whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system; and

code to effect successful authentication so as to grant access to the protected resource on the first system, to the client based on the determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system.

11. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable code stored thereon, the code for validating credentials, the code comprising:
code to input, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

code to determine, at the first system that the client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system;

code to retrieve from the client, at the first system, information from a session token held by the client, the information corresponding to a possible session credential for the

second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system and that has a protected resource that is accessible by the client, the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system;

code to present at least some of the information from the session token to the second system; and

code to input, from the second system to the first system, a determination whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system; and

code to effect successful authentication to the client so as to grant access to the protected resource on the first system, to the client based on the determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system..

12. (currently amended) A programmed computer for validating credentials, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to input, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

code to determine, at the first system that the client does not have a valid session

credential granted by the first system;

code to retrieve, at the first system, information from a session token held by the client, the information corresponding to a session credential for the second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system, the second system including a protected resource that is accessible by the client, the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system;

code to present at least some of the information from the session token to the second system; and

code to input, from the second system to the first system, a determination whether the client has a valid session credential granted by the second system and

code to effect successful authentication so as to grant access to the protected resource on the first system, to the client based on the determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system.

13. **(currently amended)** A method for establishing session credentials comprising:

inputting, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

determining at the first system that the client does not have a valid session credential granted by a first system;

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determining that the client does not have a valid session credential granted by a second system based on successful authentication at the second system;

sending, from the first system to the client, a log in page;

receiving, at the first system from the client, log in information;

sending, from the first system to the second system, the log in information; and

receiving, at the first system from the second system, information corresponding to a session credential granted by the second system, the session credential granted by the second system based at least in part on the log in information and successful authentication at the second system, the second system being one that (1) grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system, and (2) includes a protected resource on the second system that is accessible by the client, the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system; and

the first system effecting successful authentication so as to grant granting access, to a protected resource on the first system, to the client based on the determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising granting a session credential for the first system.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising granting a session credential for the second system.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising associating session credentials for the first system and the second system with the

client.

17. (currently amended) A method for establishing session credentials for a client, the method comprising:

inputting, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource on the first system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the first system;

determining that the client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system;

inputting information at the first system, from the second system, that the client does not have a valid session credential granted by the second system, the second system including a protected resource, the protected resource on the second system being accessible by the client only after successful authentication of the client at the second system;

sending, from the second system to the client, a log in page;

receiving, at the second system from the client, log in information; and

sending, from the second system to the first system, information corresponding to a session credential granted by the second system, the session credential granted by the second system based at least in part on the log in information and successful authentication at the second system; and

granting a session credential to the client for the first system so as to provide successful authentication, such that the client is granted access to a protected resource on the first system.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, further comprising granting a session credential for the second system.

19. (original) A method according to claim 17, further comprising associating session credentials for the first system and the second system with the client.

20. **(currently amended)** A method for validating credentials comprising:
inputting, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system
determining, at the first system that a client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system;

redirecting the client to the second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication at the second system, the second system having a protected resource that is accessible by the client;

sending, from the second system to the first system, session credentials granted by the second system;

sending, from the first system to the second system, the session credentials granted by the second system;

determining, at the second system, that the session credentials granted by the second system, and received from the first system, are valid; and

sending, from the second system to the first system, information indicating that the session credentials granted by the second system are valid; and

inputting, at the second system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the second

system

determining, at the second system that a client does not have a valid session
credential granted by the second system;

redirecting the client to the first system that grants session credentials based on
successful authentication at the first system;

sending, from the first system to the second system, session credentials granted
by the first system;

sending, from the second system to the first system, the session credentials
granted by the first system;

determining, at the first system, that the session credentials granted by the first
system, and received from the second system, are valid; and

sending, from the first system to the second system, information indicating that
the session credentials granted by the first system are valid.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A method for validating credentials comprising:

inputting, at a first system that grants session credentials based on successful authentication, a request from a client to access a protected resource on the first system, the protected resource being accessible upon successful authentication of the client at the first system;

determining, at the first system that the client does not have a valid session credential granted by the first system, so as to allow the client access to the protected resource

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on the first system;

the first system communicating with a second system, the second system having a further protected resource on the second system, the further protected resource being accessible upon successful authentication of the client at the second system;

the first system presenting information to the second system;

the first system inputting a determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system; and

the first system effecting successful authentication so as to grant access, to the protected resource on the first system, to the client, based on the determination from the second system that the client has a valid session credential with the second system.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further including the first system inputting information from the second system, and in response, the first system outputting, to the second system, a determination that the first system has a valid session credential for the client at the first system, and

the second system effecting successful authentication so as to grant access, to the further protected resource on the second system, to the client based on the determination from the first system that the client has a valid session credential with the first system.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the protected resource in the first system includes content provided on a pay-per-use basis, and wherein the protected resource in the second system includes content provided on a pay-per-use basis.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the protected resource in the first system includes content provided on a subscription basis, and wherein the protected resource in

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the second system includes content provided on a subscription basis.